

Remarks

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, with amendment. Claims 12-15 and 18-19 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 12-15 and 18-19; and cancelled claims 1-11 and 16-17. No new claims have been added in this Amendment. Of the pending claims, claims 12 and 14-15 are independent claims.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to the claims as the claims did not include a claim "8" and, consequently, claims 9-20 were misnumbered. The Examiner indicated misnumbered claims 9-20 should be renumbered as claims 8-19, respectively. The Examiner noted misnumbered claims 9-20 were addressed in the Office Action as claims 8-19.

The Applicant has renumbered claims 9-20 as claims 8-19, respectively, in this Amendment, and has addressed misnumbered claims 9-20 as claims 8-19, respectively, in this Amendment.

The Applicant has cancelled claims 1-11 and 16-17; amended claims 13 and 18-19 to depend properly from renumbered independent claim 12; and rewritten claims 14-15 in independent form.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 14-15 and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16 which depends from independent claim 12. The Applicant has amended independent claim 12 to include the limitations of claims 16-17. The Applicant has amended claims 13 and 18-19 to properly depend from amended independent claim 12. Thus, claims 12-13 and 18-19, as amended, are in a condition for allowance.

Claim 14 depends directly from independent claim 12. The Applicant has rewritten claim 14 in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 12 and limitations of claim 13, which also depended from independent claim 12. Thus, independent claim 14, as amended, is in a condition for allowance.

Claim 15 depends directly from independent claim 12. The Applicant has rewritten claim 15 in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 12 and limitations of claim 13, which also depended from independent claim 12. Thus, independent claim 15, as amended, is in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 16, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0146999 issued to White in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0110472 issued to Witkowski. The Applicant has cancelled claims 1-11 and 16. As indicated above, claims 12-13 and 18-19, as amended, are in a condition for allowance. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 12-15 and 18-19 presented herein meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,
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